

Village of Ardentown

Ardentown, Del. 19810

Established 1922

Incorporated 1975

The regular meeting of the Village of Ardentown was convened at 7:30pm on Monday, November 9, 2015. Annie Gutsche, Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

IN ATTENDANCE:

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|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Anne P Lutz | 10. Maureen Gordon | 19. Hans Francke |
| 2. Betty Ann Themal | 11. Tim Donovan | 20. Sue Cherrin |
| 3. Harry Themal | 12. Alison Wakelin | 21. Sandra Landerl |
| 4. Rusty Hoegger | 13. Joan Fitzgerald | 22. Shelley Robyn |
| 5. Hardy Hoegger | 14. June Kleban | 23. Elain Schmerling |
| 6. Holly Custer | 15. Peter W Slattery | 24. Sharon Kleban |
| 7. Pat Lane | 16. Annie Gutsche | 25. Mike Fish |
| 8. Andrew Hansen | 17. Katrina Nelson | 26. Kiki Enveninger, guest |
| 9. Terri Hansen | 18. Janet Cosgrove | 27. M.P. Moon, guest |

Approval of September Minutes: September minutes were photocopied with the meeting date handwritten in; the digital copy for permanent record has been amended with the date. Minutes were approved as amended.

Special Guest- Kiki Evinger, constituent advocate for Rep. Bryon Short answered questions from the floor:

- *Are there extra discretionary funds Rep. Short has access to that we might use for road improvements?* There is a fund, CTF, that is used each year to do road repairs. Application is on a rolling basis and decisions are made based on need and how poor the road is. Ms. Eveninger will look into whether these funds could be used in Ardentown and whether DelDOT rates the condition of our roads since we are a municipality.
- *A request was made for information regarding the upcoming transition of office holders in our District.* According to DE State Law, a candidate may not run for two offices at the same time. In light of his campaign for a Congressional Office, Rep. Short will not be able to run as our Representative in the next election. To date there is no endorsed candidate and there appears to only be one person who has filed to run. There is a transition process that will be followed to make the change as smooth as possible.

- *A resident asked for platform information.* Ms. Eveninger is not allowed to campaign for Mr. Short while on state time. She encouraged constituents to email electbryonshort@gmail.com with questions.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report - Holly Custer:

Operating Accounts	\$39,244.68
Municipal Street Aid	\$20,873.78
<u>Arden Building and Loan</u>	<u>\$22,573.94</u>
TOTAL	\$82,692.40

Registration - Betty Ann Themal:

New Leaseholders- 2300 Sconset Road, Robert DeNigris to Joshua and Lynette Johnson
 1515 Appletree Lane, Richard Cannon Estate to
 Richard and Beverly Hawkins

New Residents- 2306 Loreley- Christopher Day, Nick Northwood, Alex Northwood (10/28/15)

Ivy Gables- There are currently 8 residents at Ivy Gables.

The committee met October 17th and updated the New Resident welcome packet with Ivy Gables brochures.

The November wine and cheese reception prior to the Town meeting was not very effective in attracting new people to come. The Registration Committee will consider some other kind of gathering at another time of the year.

Archives - Peter Slattery: New exhibit on the Authors of the Ardens. All are encouraged to visit.

Memorial Garden - Betty Ann Themal: The Memorial Garden is looking good. Rusty Hoegger and Cheryl Regan did a masterful job pruning the greatly overgrown weeping cherry tree. Hal Godwin's team has removed the accumulation of branches and sticks from the corner of Harvey and Swiss.

The committee is looking for a replacement for Gil Johnson. Interested individuals should contact Betty Ann Themal.

Community Planning- Andrew Hansen: Committee met regarding web site needs and storage of Ardentown historic paperwork. A survey of residents will be made to see what functionality the web site might need.

Public Works:

Roads – Joan Warburton-Phibbs: Road repairs have been completed. Two stop signs and one “Caution/Children Playing” sign will be installed at the intersection of Swiss Lane and Via Italia. Ivy Gables and residents on Swiss have been notified of this change.

Signs – Sue Mearkle / Cheryl Regan: Still need a source for replacement road signs. Plan to contact the wood working shop at James T. Vaughn correctional institution to see if they can make the signs. Also, while dealing with contractors, it appears that GPS devices list Loreley as “Lane”, not “Road”. Any new road signs will now use “Loreley Lane” to avoid confusion.

Snow/sand – Paul Romagano: The sand barrels have been ordered. The snow contract with Jim Burslem was received and should be completed shortly.

Compost Area - Elaine Schmerling & Chris Monson: Rich Cropper regraded the area and put in stones for proper drainage. The area stayed dry through the last rain. He also cleaned up the entire area and the first 2 bins are ready for leaves (but leaves only!).

IHM Boy Scout troop cleaned up the parking lot, Rich Cropper finished up and hauled the debris away. Elaine Schmerling sent a thank-you and invited them here for other projects.

Elaine has started re-planting the area with the witchhazel we got as a “Tree City” reward, and others she had. We have also replanted a few trees which weren’t doing well in the other spots to this area, which is VERY high in nutrients (caution: many weed seeds). She also plans to transplant winterberry and Itea sprouts. Please contact Elaine if you can help.

Sunnyside – Chris Monson: Chris Monson spotted a recently used but unoccupied tent in the area. The owner of the tent was notified, but failed to retrieve it and the tent was later vandalized. He hauled everything out and set out for trash collection.

Eileen Butler from DNREC Office of Nature Preserves has given us 3 big signs saying “Nature Preserve – area under Electronic Surveillance”. She is requesting pipes to hang them from and will help us hang them up properly.

Misc: The poison ivy in the Henry George Green was sprayed, and Hal Godwin cleaned up half of the area.

Paths: Hal Godwin cleared up two trees which fell on the main path by the stream. We have spent most of the path money and have \$200 left in case another tree falls. If not we will use this money for ivy removal in December. Previously we had the bees nest treated which was right on the path. FYI were probably aggressive German yellow jackets.

Playground - Annie Gutsche for Steven Curley: Nothing to report.

Trustees - Harry Themal, Pat Lane, Joan Fitzgerald: Nothing to report.

Buzz Ware Village Center - Terri Hansen: The Arden Town Meeting approved up to \$25,000 from a contingency fund for exterior repairs. This represents a majority of the money budgeted to be spent. Additional funds will come from the Renovation Fund. To date, the approach and apron area was repaved, with the approach path widened and leveled to make the building more accessible. Multiple bids have been solicited for the exterior repair work and discussion is still open on whether to fully remediate the lead paint, treat the exterior and paint, or to encapsulate the lead paint behind a new stucco finishing process.

Town Chair- Annie Gutsche:

- Library Gild and Archives thanked us for our donations.
- Please be reminded that cars must be parked fully on leaseholds. Please make sure you do this for any car that is regularly at your home, or staying overnight.
- We are looking for people with experience with designing or maintaining websites to help with an Ardentown website.
- If you have information about students or groups looking for volunteer hours, please contact us, we have lots of projects.
- Ardentown Teen Internships are available, please let any interested resident teens know.

Elections:

Town Secretary- Terri Hansen standing for reelection- elected unanimously
Town Treasurer- Holly Custer standing for reelection- elected unanimously
Community Planning- 2 vacancies

New Business:

A resident informed the meeting that the individual who was arrested for the car break-ins we suffered through a couple of summers ago is due to be released from custody in the next 60 days.

Residents are reminded to remain vigilant, report suspicious behavior, lock your vehicles and don't leave valuables in sight.

A resident requested a job description for the Secretary to the Trustees so that potential candidates might be recruited from the community. Joan Fitzgerald (Trustee) responded, explaining that the old position's duties are being split. The paperwork to manage leaseholds and transfers of leases will stay with the trustees, but the bookkeeping will be hired out to a professional bookkeeper. The Trustees have interviews with several candidates and will keep the Town Meeting informed.

Hans Francke of the Archives committee encouraged residents to come to the Craft Shop Museum to see the latest exhibit, Arden Authors. He also thanked June Kleban for giving so generously of her valuable assistance and knowledge with the exhibit.

Residents were encouraged to attend the Scholar's Gild meeting to be held Tuesday, November 17th. The presenter is a professional parliamentarian and information may be of interest to the community.

M.P. Moon, guest from Arden, shared his safety concerns regarding biking and pedestrian traffic on the gridwork shoulders on Harvey Road, from Veale to Sconset. He would like to see it paved to better accommodate bikes and pedestrians. Residents responded that Harvey Road is a state road (DelDOT is responsible for decisions and maintenance), and the gridwork was put in by DelDOT. Mr. Moon was encouraged to use Miller Road, which parallels Harvey Road as a safer route.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm